Muskogee Cimeter.

W. E. TWINE, Editor.

MUSKOGEE, . . IND. TER.

NEW STATE NEWS.

Work has been begun on the Elks' new home at Ardmore.

The Citizens' state bank of Kiowa has been organized, with a capital of $25,000.

Lawton is to have a special day at the World's fair. September 20th has been designated as the date.

Okmulgee's new water works system has been completed and will be submitted to a final test this week.

Old settlers of Oklahoma county will hold their annual picnic at Witcher September 17th.

The Roger Mills county fair is to be held at Berlin September 28th, 29th and 30th.

The new cotton gin, just about completed at Watonga, was destroyed by fire last week. The fire is supposed to have been started by unknown parties.

Enid is making great preparations for celebrating its eleventh birthday anniversary, which occurs September 16th.

The stenographers of Oklahoma City, numbering about one thousand, have taken steps for the organization of an association, which will have for its object the mutual benefit of the members of the profession.

For the fall term of the district court of Kiowa county there are three hundred and twenty-three cases on the docket. It is expected the grand jury will return several indictments, which will increase the number.

Yewed, a new town named after Dewey, the letters being transposed, and Lambert, another small place, both in Woods county, Okla., are to be moved to a more central location and united. The new town will be given another name, which has not yet been decided upon.

W. L. Kendall, the first Oklahoman to receive a Cecil Rhodes scholarship, left last week for Oxford college. Mr. Kendall was superintendent of the Lexington, O. T., schools last winter. The scholarship is for a regular university course, and will last four years.

While digging a well on his place, four miles north of Quinlan, R. L. Innes struck a strong flow of artesian water. The water is cold and soft, and it is said the stream is getting stronger each day. This is the first artesian water found in that section of Oklahoma. Other farmers in the same vicinity are now sinking wells.

An order has been signed at the agricultural department removing restrictions on shipping cattle northward from Custer, as the infection of southern fever is reported by agents of the department to have been eradicated in that vicinity.

The Epworth university, a school founded by the two branches of the Methodist church at Oklahoma City, opened for its first time last week.

Sheriff Ozuman of Canadian county has gone to El Paso, Tex., where the authorities have arrested A. C. Pederson, who, for several months, has been a fugitive from justice in Old Mexico. Pederson is charged with embezzling funds at El Reno from secret orders, and had given security bonds. The bonding companies are prosecuting.

DUELS ON LAND AND WATER

Strange Weapons That Have Been Chosen to Decide Deadly Quarrels, and Conditions That Have Caused the Challengers to Withdraw.

From time immemorial duels have been fought in every land under the sun. Premeditated combats have taken place between two persons for the purpose of deciding some private difference or quarrel and have been fought with deadly weapons and with a purpose to take life.

The challenger has generally been one who was confident that he could worst his adversary with pistol or sword, but there have been many instances where men, goaded to desperation by persecution or slander, have challenged the ones who made life unbearable even when they felt that the chances were against them, but like the man who meditates suicide, they felt it was the easiest way to end their troubles. However, in most cases, duelists are either selfish or wantonly thoughtless, for "the duelist values his honor above the life of his antagonist, his own life, and the happiness of his family."

In France and Germany dueling enjoys a certain amount of popularity, although the laws forbid it, and, until a half century ago, a fight with swords or pistols between prominent men in this country, who wished to settle a contention, was by no means uncommon, and a description of several of these incidents occupies many pages of American history. They invariably resulted fatally for one and sometimes for both of the combatants, so that dueling became exceedingly unpopular with Americans.

Duels have been fought not only with all kinds of weapons, but in various other ways, some of them under the most dramatic circumstances and with the most tragic results. The methods employed have been most original; some have been fiendish, with the outcome utterly hopeless for either duelist.

Davy Crockett, frontiersman, Indian fighter and congressman, was once challenged to mortal combat by a famous duelist in Washington. Crockett's bravery was unquestionable, but the odds were against him with sword or pistol, for the skill of the challenger with either weapon was world renowned. However, Crockett accepted, and, being the challenged party, had the right to name his choice of weapons.

He had gone into the wilderness on numerous occasions and with his brawn and a sharp axe had cleared hundreds of acres of timber land. His prowess with the broadaxe was familiar to everybody, and when he chose broadaxes as dueling weapons his challenger hastily apologized to him. Then what might have been a famous duel was averted. Crockett regarded his would-be antagonist as a coward, and he proved it.

The hero of the broadaxe, a few years later, fought to the death with a little band of brave men in the Alamo, of whom it was written: "Marathon had her messenger of defeat; the Alamo had none." The moral of this incident is obvious.

A few years ago two Swedes went out upon a railroad track in a cut in the mountains of Pennsylvania and fought until an express train killed them. Both saw the approaching train, and taunted each other to continue fighting where they were. They battled to the death.

Daniel O'Connell's son was challenged by an English student to fight. He went to his father, the great emancipator, and asked what he should do. The father advised him to accept, to choose pistols, the conditions of the fight to be that, facing each other and toeing a mark, they should place the muzzles of the pistols in each other's mouth, and, upon the word from a referee, they should fire simultaneously. When young O'Connell's conditions were made known the bullying Briton declined to fight.

Two expert swimmers, whose reputations are international, engaged in a hot argument one night several years ago at a beach near Boston, and a novel duel was the result. They agreed to swim at midnight, straight out to sea, in the rays of the moonlight, no boats to follow, until one or the other became exhausted. They swam several miles, and the Boston swimmer towed his adversary back to the beach and restored him to consciousness.

Less than ten years ago two locomotive engineers in Texas, who had several petty differences which they wished to settle, decided upon a most original duel. Taking two engines, they went out upon a plain on the same track, and when half a mile lay between them they whistled for the beginning of hostilities, opened the throttles wide and hurled their locomotives at each other with tremendous speed. In a few seconds there was a frightful crash, the boilers exploded and the explosion was heard for miles, attracting a large crowd to the scene. It was found that the two engines had collided and that the two engineers had been killed. The absence of firemen in the locomotives brought out the fact that a duel had taken place.

Capt. Castentenus, Barnum's original tattooed man, who died a few years ago, engaged in a peculiar duel many years ago.

Castentenus was a Greek and in early life belonged to a crew of pirates which operated in the Aegean sea. When pirating proved hazardous on account of cruising war vessels he had himself tattooed from head to foot, came over to America and became a very popular freak.

During his career as a buccaneer he became enamored of a very pretty girl, daughter of the mate of the blackflag craft which he commanded, but he had a rival. Under oaths which bound them together they could not fight, and so they appealed to the girl's father to decide their respective claims upon his daughter's hand. The father knew Castentenus and his rival as desperate men, and so he resolved upon a desperate method to test their love for his daughter. He outlined his proposition to them and both accepted.

One night he went into the small forecastle and set a barrel of sulphur ablaze, and then ordered both men to go down into the stifling gases and to remain there for ten minutes. They did as he directed, and upon the expiration of that time he signaled the lovers to come forth.

Castentenus, who was a man of remarkable physical powers, groped and staggered up the companionway to the deck, bearing on his shoulders the limp and unconscious form of his rival. Castentenus was bleeding from the eyes, ears and nose. When he got into the fresh air he swooned. He revived an hour later, but his rival passed into the great beyond. He had lived but a few moments after being carried out by the tattooed man.

The woman for whom the great sacrifice was made never married, for she was taken sick and died in a few weeks.

There have been electrical duels, duels with poison wherein two rivals have dared each other to quaff a deadly draught at a specified time, and early last month two Boston longshoremen engaged in a conflict that was decidedly novel, to say the least. The story of the battle in which they engaged has only just come to light.

Bad blood had existed between these two sons of toil and they concluded to settle their differences. Both were fine specimens of that type of hardy manhood which is employed in loading and unloading the great ocean liners—men who usualy settle their troubles at fisticuffs, which fact makes this incident all the more startling and interesting.

One night they went down upon the New York & New England docks at South Boston, and, removing their clothing, they plunged into the waters at South bay and proceeded to drown each other. They battled for at least twenty minutes, during which time the results were about even, when suddenly one seized the other by the neck and began to strangle him. At the same time both sank beneath the surface. How many feet they went down is not to be recorded, but the strangler, becoming exhausted, rose to the surface. A moment later the apparently lifeless body of his adversary made its appearance.

In the dim lights cast upon the waters by the distant electric lamps the victor realized that his deadly work was accomplished, the strife at an end. Thoughts of arrest for murder, the electric chair, crowded upon his mind and his almost benumbed senses were quickened. He grasped his victim and shouted lustily for assistance.

A party returning in a catboat after a pleasant day's outing in the harbor heard his cries and reached both men just in the nick of time. They were taken into the boat and after artificial respiration had been applied for a time they were restored to consciousness. After a bracer or two of brandy they were put ashore at the public landing on Long wharf and arm in arm started for their homes.

A small paragraph appeared in the morning papers which stated that two men were rescued by a yachting party and cared for until they were able to go home.

But there had been a duel in the dark waters of Boston harbor "the night before the Fourth." He who would have been a murderer became a life saver; his magnanimity has been recognized by the man who might have left him to his fate had he been as successful in that terrible conflict as the other, and now both vow eternal friendship.

What's In a Name?

Nelson, a thriving little English town to which Andrew Carnegie proposes now to give a library, is a living instance of the value of a name. Not long after the battle of Trafalgar, some tinker, tailor or other person established a tiny wayside inn, and called it after the naval hero. There was nobody on the spot from whom to expect custom, but the road led to and from populous districts. Travelers stopped at the place and presently a cottage or two began to rise, then more of them, and the name of the public house answered for the whole. That was the nucleus of the present town. Now 40,000 people live around the site which the old innkeeper chose and called after the name of his hero.

The Soul of Wit.

A caller stopped at the house of a certain man and asked if he was at home.

"'Deed, an' he's not," replied the woman who answered his ring.

"Can you tell me where he is?"

"I could not."

"When did you see him last?"

"At his funeral."

"And who may you be?"

"I'm his remains," said the widow, and she closed the door.

Telephone Wire in America.

In 1903 there were 4,350,483 miles of single telephone wire in the United States and 2,315,297 telephone instruments. In 1902, 5,070,000,000 messages were spoken over the wires, including 12,000,000 long distance calls. The gross revenue was $86,800,000, the expense nearly $62,000,000, and the net income more than $22,000,000.